

Dear Jim, Ray & CBS

3/15/77

I caught the Cronkite teaser for the Who's Who interview by Rather tonight. These instant thoughts before that show is aired on the chance the phone gets busy then.

Jimmy does not even pretend to have any exculpatory evidence of his own. He does not attribute it to Kershaw or Kane or Freed or anyone else. Asked about proof he did not shoot King he said it was from the investigations of those who represented him in the past.

This means us.

Aside from what was adduced at the evidentiary hearings this means what I told him about and perhaps what Stoner told him I had told Stoner, aside from any opinion you may have given him.

I also noticed that the heavy load he resented from me got through to him in the reservations he stipulated about testimony. I do not recall if this was in what you wrote him, as it could have been.

This means he is taking my work and yours, using it with another, and expecting us to be content. I will not be.

If he has been paid by CBS and Kershaw gets and keeps it as long as he keeps it there will not be anything from me voluntarily under any circumstances.

If he has not been paid by CBS then I still want none of my work used by any lawyer other than you under any circumstances unless you opt out, in which even I would still insist on your being consulted and heeded. This would extend even to your satisfaction with other counsel. I know you cannot associate with a Kershaw.

This really is in some ways an extension of what I wrote you earlier and told him through Jerry.

With all the costs we have bled out for him, all without income or prospect of it, I will not accept the use of this money except as a partial repayment of these past services and then to be applied to them and the other work in his benefit since. Not that any would remain from the time alone each of us has invested.

If he thinks he is going to commercialize and for the ~~max~~ benefit of Kershaw he'll learn otherwise. Even for a professional crook it is pretty crooked. Outrageous, too.

I'll probably add more after hearing it all. My impression is of a considerable alteration in his appearance. He is very pale on black and white. His face is much fatter. His eyes, compared to the past, looked almost wild to me in this brief look. (My tape recorder is not yet wired in to the changes I'm making and it took time.) He was, to me, nervous. Much more than his hesitant way of speaking we know. He is, despite what he says, despite any seeming positiveness in his words, unsure and uneasy. Not from Mike's fright.

After you phoned I heard from my source of the mind-bending. His main impression was of nervousness and he interpreted Jimmy's blinking and eye-shifting as indicative of less than honesty. You and I have similar observations, except that I think the pressures, if any, will help the committee, not Jimmy.

I'm sure this is a Jerry deal about which I'll hear great boasting soon. It fits part of the Ray ~~deal~~:- CBS pays at least Jerry's expenses to get him where he wants to go anyway. More mischief has been done this way. Like the Enquirer story.

I suspect his way of explaining why he would not deal with Justice will not help him and except for the sophisticated and imaginative will not be understood. It came across like he knows and won't say. I'm surprised he didn't recognize vintage Foreman and have some TV fun, as he could have. Not like him at all. He also mixed up all his lawyers making it impossible to know about whom he was talking and having them come across as all one. But it was not as bad as it easily could have been and he sure as hell has been reacting while arguing and pretending otherwise. We'll hear more in time. Best,